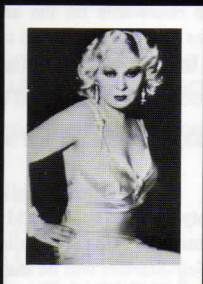


The Self-Starter

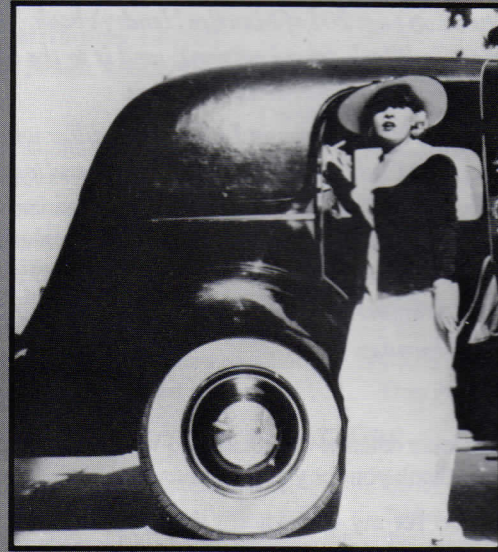
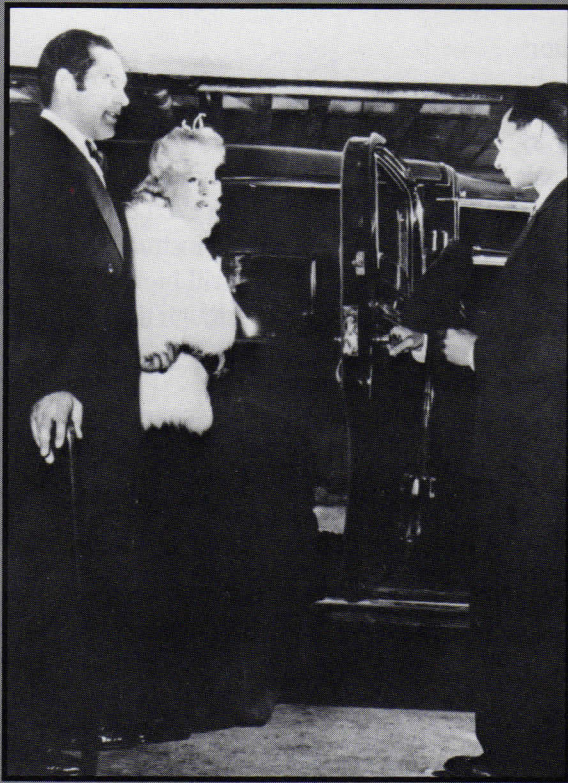


March 1995



Read about Mae West's 1934 Cadillac V-12 Town Car on Pages 4 & 5.

1934 Cadillac V12 Made Especially for Mae West



Pride & Joy of Dr. Joseph Amodei, Medford, NY

As a teenager in the early 1940's, I always admired large automobiles. At the age of 22 I noticed a 1942 super Buick four-door sedan parked in the front of my home with a "For Sale" sign. I became fascinated with that automobile and borrowed four hundred dollars from my parents to purchase it. I had to do some mechanical work on the car and began to develop an interest in it. I drove the car for three years during my college years.

In 1952 I graduated from Chiropractic College and continued to drive the 1942 Buick. My grandfather then told me that now that I was a doctor, I should have a new automobile. He gave me \$300.00 for the down payment, and I financed a Buick for three years. The price of the 1952 Buick Special two-door sedan was \$2,150.00. I drove it for seven years.

In 1966 I bought my first new Cadillac Sedan DeVille. I continued to trade my Cadillacs every three years up to 1987. While owning new Cadillacs, I would still admire older models.

In 1991 my son-in-law told me about a 1960 Cadillac Convertible, which was restored by his cousin in Iowa, that was for sale along with a 1964 Corvette Stingray. I made arrangements over the phone to purchase both vehicles after seeing a video of both cars.

At that time, my son had started his own used car business which included a mechanic and body shop. Prior to going into business he served as a Service Manager for a large Audi and Porche dealer. His expertise and facilities helped me make the decision to continue to collect antique cars.

In March of 1992, I entered the 1960 Cadillac Convertible, along with the 1964 Corvette, into my first car show on Long Island. Both cars took first place in their class which made me more determined to seek other antique cars.

At a car show in March 1992, I was introduced to Bill Tricarico, a member of the Long Island Region of the Cadillac-LaSalle Club, who recommended that I join both the regional and the national clubs.

My desire to seek other antique Cadillacs continued. I always remembered the enjoyment I had with a 1966 and 1970 Cadillac Sedan DeVilles and was now looking for convertibles of that vintage.

I was fortunate to obtain a good original 1966 red convertible and a blue 1970 Cadillac convertible. I

now have three totally restored Cadillac convertibles which are driven in many local parades and Chamber of Commerce functions.

The next antique I purchased was a 1950 Cadillac Model '62 which was totally restored by the original owner.

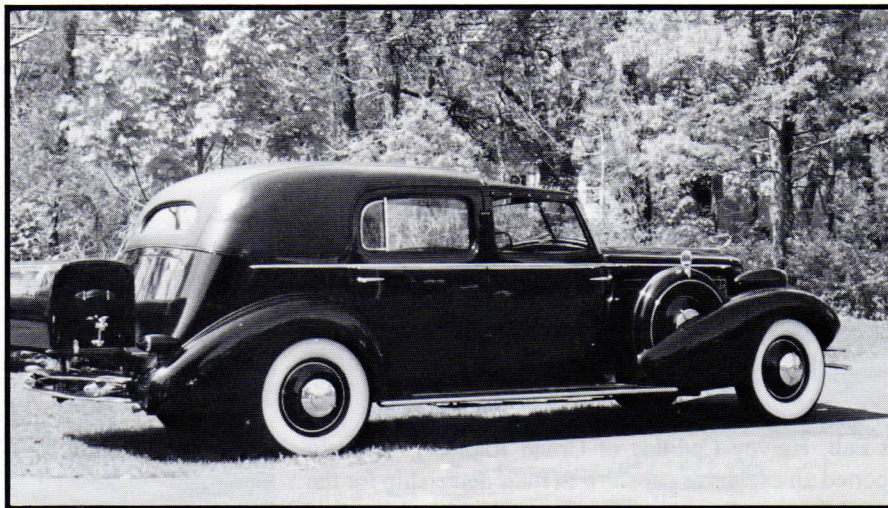
In the April 1993 issue of the "Self-Starter" I saw a classified advertisement for a 1934 Cadillac Town Cabriolet, which was first owned by motion picture legend, Mae West, and built especially for her. I was interested in locating a classic vehicle of the 1930's to add to my collection. I negotiated the purchase of this automobile from John Phillips of Portland, Oregon.

The automobile was in excellent condition but required painting, along with minor mechanical and electrical repairs. We had to replace the rubber running boards and dye the front leather seats. All the restoration was done in my son's shop. The 1934 Cadillac is now in excellent condition and is a 90-95 point antique vehicle.

I now had five classic Cadillacs which were stored in several different garages. My son then recommended that I consider building a garage on his property to house all my antique cars under one roof. We hired a contractor who constructed a garage 35' X 75' to house all ten vehicles.

Now the real fun began, being an owner of these classic cars but my greatest pleasure is owning the 1934 Mae West Cadillac.

This 1934 V-12 Cadillac Town Cabriolet was one of the vehicles owned by Mae West. She used this vehicle up to the mid 1960's when



she donated the classic to a convent in Sacramento, CA. The classic was then purchased by an antique dealer who restored the vehicle to mint condition.

In late 1972 the vehicle was then purchased by Mr. Brick McKelvey of Eugene, Oregon. He verified that the vehicle was delivered new to Mae West in April, 1934. He owned the vehicle for about twenty years.

In 1992 he sold the 1934 Cadillac to Mr. John Phillips, in Portland, Oregon, who collects V12 and V16 Cadillacs.

Since owning this vehicle I have displayed it three times at shows and have been awarded first place each time. We drive it at least a day a month, weather permitting, around the neighborhood. This Cadillac style #5725 is the last survivor of the Fleetwood bodies Cadillac built.

This Classic, with the celebrity status, is one of a kind vehicle and was the most expensive V12 body style available at that time and is the last known survivor of the (13) Fleetwood Cadillacs built that year. I have great plans for it. My son and his partner have

recently purchased a building for the sale of used cars. The building was previously a new car dealership with a large showroom in which they will display my antique cars.

I will be considering retirement within the next few years and am excited that I have this antique car collection to keep me busy.

Specifications and Features of the Classic 1934 Cadillac

370 cubic inch engine
Overhead valve V12 develops 150 hp.
Hydraulic valve silencers
Two single updraft carburetors
146 inch wheelbase
Special body by Fleetwood
First year of independent front suspension steel wire wheels
7.50/17 white wall tires
Fuel tank capacity 30 gallons
Shipping weight 6040 lbs.

OPTIONS

Dual sidemounts spare tires
Metal tire covers
Goddess hood ornament
Trippie driving lights
Rear compartment radio
Trunk rack and trunk
Disc wheel covers
Dual tire cover mirrors
Chrome license plate frame.